



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE FORMER PRISON EMPLOYEES PLEAD GUILTY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that three former employees of the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners have pleaded guilty, in separate and unrelated cases, to providing inmates with prohibited objects and to possession of marijuana.

Jared Petree, 29, of Cassville, Mo., and **Seth Michael Cooper**, 26, of Marshfield, Mo., each pleaded guilty in separate appearances before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England today to federal informations that charge them with providing tobacco to inmates at the federal medical facility in Springfield.

Petree supervised inmates doing welding in the prison shop from October 2002 until he resigned on March 20, 2004. **Cooper** worked as a correctional officer at the federal prison facility from Sept. 21, 2003, until he resigned on Oct. 8, 2004.

The U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield is a correctional facility for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Graves explained, and acts as the main medical treatment facility for male prisoners in the federal penal system. All tobacco use has been prohibited at the facility since Nov. 1, 2003.

Petree admitted that he sold 10 to 12 pouches of tobacco to inmates, who intended to sell it within the prison to other inmates, on three or four occasions. **Petree** received \$4,000 from the brother of one of the inmates.

Cooper admitted that he agreed to provide an inmate with 10 bags of tobacco for \$1,000, or \$100 per bag. **Cooper** smuggled eight bags of tobacco into the prison facility, which he provided to the inmate, and received the \$750 payment by mail.

Callie Presley, 47, of Willard, Mo., pleaded guilty on July 5, 2005, in a separate and unrelated case, to possession of marijuana. **Presley** worked as a nursing assistant at the federal medical facility. **Presley** admitted that she was in possession of marijuana on June 27, 2003, in Greene County, Mo.

Under federal statutes, **Petree** and **Cooper** could each be subject to a sentence of up to six months in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$5,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Under federal statutes, **Presley** could be subject to a sentence of up to one year in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of at least \$1,000 up to \$100,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

These cases are being prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the Department of Justice - Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow